



EXCLUSIVE OCCUPANCY  
SIR WALTER SCOTT'S  
ABBOTSFORD  
SCOTLAND

Wednesday 24 – Saturday 27 October 2018

'If I have done anything good in my life, Abbotsford is at the heart of it'. Sir Walter Scott

'Rambling', 'whimsical' and 'picturesque' were expressions Sir Walter Scott used at different times to describe his home, Abbotsford. Created 200 years ago on the banks of the River Tweed in the Scottish Borders, Abbotsford was both the culmination and ultimate expression of Scott's creative ambitions as a writer as well as his inspiration. Its quintessential Romantic interior features brilliant blues, reds and yellows pouring from stained glass windows, alighting on richly-carved chairs, and illuminating the bosses hanging from moulded ceilings. Abbotsford presents intricate nets of tiled floors, a mesh of fine picture frames, seated bronze figurines, and the burnished clay of antique pots. It has been the subject of fascination to its guests since it was built: 'here was a faery realm, echoing far-off chivalric days of yore, yet one with pneumatic bells and the celebrated gas lighting.'

Several professional architects, craftsmen, dilettante designers and friends contributed ideas and sketches. These included the architect Edward Blore, the cabinet-maker, George Bullock and Scott's friends, the artist James Skene and the actor Daniel Terry. But the principal architect was William Atkinson, who was later responsible for the remodelling of Chequers in Buckinghamshire. The interiors were decorated by David Ramsay Hay of Edinburgh, who went on to redecorate the Palace of Holyroodhouse for Queen Victoria.

Inscape has arranged exclusive occupancy of an original wing of the House. This extraordinary opportunity served as impetus to plan a series of journeys in search of other sources of Scottish Romanticism: to the dazzling, almost hallucinatory, Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh; to Dryburgh Abbey where Scott is buried; to Melrose Abbey whose architecture so inspired him; and to ancient Traquair lived in by the Stuart family since 1491. Jenni Calder, author and leading historian of early 19c Scotland will lecture on Sir Walter Scott and the myths of Scotland.

We have arranged for Dr John Dent, principal archaeologist of the Scottish Lowlands to accompany us on a day long excursion to Kelso, Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys, Catherine Maxwell Stuart Laird of Traquair, her ancestral home, warmly welcomes and hosts our visit. We pay homage to some of the greatest glories of Scottish, indeed of European, medieval architecture.

### WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER

Ian Gardner

- 09.30 Suggested train from London Kings Cross. Individual light lunch on train
- 2.13 Arrive Edinburgh Waverley Station. Meet Nicholas and minibus
- 2.30 Depart for the Earl and Countess of Rosslyn's 15c chapel, the Rosslyn Chapel
- 3.00 Welcome by Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, and tour
- 4.00 Private Tea at Rosslyn Chapel, and chapel conservation talk by Ian Gardner
- 5.00 Leave for Abbotsford
- 6.15 Arrive Abbotsford
- 7.30 Group Dinner in Hope Scott dining room and short evening reading

### THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER

Jenni Calder

- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Jenni Morning lecture: 'Sir Walter Scott and Scotland' by Jenni Calder
- 12.30 Group Lunch in Hope Scott dining room, Abbotsford
- 2.00 In-depth private tours of Abbotsford
- 3.30 Tea served
- 4.00 Tour of Sir Walter Scott's Gardens, Abbotsford, led by Head Gardener Pippa Coles
- 5.00 Return to hotel
- 7.00 Group Dinner in Hope Scott dining room and short evening reading

### FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER

Dr John Dent

- 09.30 Leave for Kelso Abbey
- 10.00 Kelso Abbey
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.30 Leave for Melrose Abbey
- 12.00 Melrose Abbey
- 1.00 Group Lunch in Melrose at Burts Hotel Bistro Bar
- 2.30 Leave for Dryburgh
- 3.00 Dryburgh Abbey for graves of Sir Walter Scott and Douglas Haig
- 4.00 Return to Abbotsford
- 7.00 Group Dinner in Hope Scott dining room and short evening reading

### SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER

- 09.00 Leave for Selkirk and Sir Walter Scott's Court House
- 09.15 Arrive Sir Walter Scott's Court House, Selkirk
- 09.45 Leave Selkirk
- 10.15 Arrive St Ronans Wells, Innerleithen
- 10.30 Arrive Traquair for coffee and welcome by owner Catherine Maxwell Stuart.
- 12.00 Group lunch in the 18c dining room, Traquair
- 1.30 Leave for Edinburgh
- 2.45 Scott Monument, Edinburgh
- 3.30 Train leaves Edinburgh Waverley for London
- 7.45 Arrive London Kings Cross.



EXCLUSIVE OCCUPANCY  
ABBOTSFORD  
HOPE SCOTT WING

The Abbotsford Trust  
Abbotsford  
Melrose Roxburghshire TD6 9BQ  
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The Hope Scott Wing at Abbotsford retains the intimacy and integrity of what was the private home of Scott, his granddaughter Charlotte Hope Scott and her descendants, while introducing all the essentials of modern-day comfort. We will be following in the venerable footsteps of others who have made the pilgrimage to this jewel in Scotland's crown, among them Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, President Ulysses S. Grant and J.M.W. Turner.

When the Wing was refurbished, many of the original features were retained, as well as some of the family's belongings, including original artworks and furniture, creating a unique combination of the personal and the historical in this intimate country retreat. The public rooms include a sumptuous sitting room – originally the withdrawing room of Scott's wife, Charlotte – a formal dining room seating 16, featuring one of Scott's most treasured views over the River Tweed, a reading room and a billiard room. There is also a spacious, interior-designed kitchen with plenty of room for informal dining, a private courtyard and a private patio garden.

Cost: £1595 members, £1645 non-members. Single Room Supplement in Dryburgh Abbey Hotel only £160 (Please see note below). No Single Room Supplement in the Hope Scott Wing. Deposit £300, including four nights accommodation in the Hope Scott Wing at Abbotsford (or Dryburgh Abbey Hotel), breakfasts, all lunches including lunch at Traquair, all dinners with wine at Abbotsford, all lectures, all private visits, entries and tours, all coffees and teas, all minibus and taxi travel during the tour, VAT and gratuities. Excludes travel to and from Edinburgh.

\*Please note that bookings received for the first seven rooms will stay in the Hope Scott Wing of Abbotsford House. Later bookings, up to a maximum of a further 5 rooms, will be accommodated in the very comfortable four-star Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, 7 miles away, where Nicholas Friend will be staying. Transport will be provided to and from the Dryburgh to Abbotsford each day.